



ARSON TASK FORCE

TASK FORCE UPDATES INVESTIGATION

REQUESTS THE PUBLIC'S HELP

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For Immediate Release
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BALTIMORE, MD – The Arson Task Force has confirmed that today's fire in Washington, DC and Tuesday's fire in Prince George's County have now been attributed to the serial arsonist that has plagued the Maryland, DC, and Northern Virginia area for the twenty-one months. The locations and dates of the fires are:

- December 7, 2004, a multi family dwelling fire in the 4200 block of 53rd Avenue, Prince George's County, MD
- December 10, 2004, a residential fire in the 3000 block of Yost Street NE, Washington, DC

All evidence retrieved has been taken to the ATF National Laboratory in Maryland for lab analysis.

The Task Force wants to reassure the public that everything is being done to apprehend the person(s) responsible for the fires. However, because of the complexity of arson investigations, it may take several months to complete an investigation from the time of the fire to determining its cause, to arresting the arsonist. To date, the Task Force has received over 1000 leads, conducted over 600 hundred interviews and has collected dozens of potentially helpful items from each fire scene. The Task Force is continuing to work with a Behavioral Profiler. It is important for the public to know that a profile is an investigative tool only and should not be considered a solve- all investigative device.

Here are a list of traits and characteristics that might assist someone who may know the individual responsible for these fires.

THIS LIST OF TRAITS AND CHARACTERISTICS IS NOT CONSIDERED ALL – INCLUSIVE AND THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT DISCOUNT AN INDIVIDUAL THEY SUSPECT IF HE DOES NOT HAVE THESE TRAITS.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT · DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FIRE AND EMS DEPARTMENT · BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS, & EXPLOSIVES · PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT · METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT · OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, MARYLAND · ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT · MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES · MARYLAND STATE POLICE · ALEXANDRIA FIRE DEPARTMENT · HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE/RESCUE SERVICES · HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT · FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT



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- He may abuse alcohol
- He may engage in reckless driving or unsafe practices at work.
- When stressed or angered, he may reveal a more callous and uncaring side
- He may lead a secretive life and become skilled at lying
- These traits have probably caused problems with his family and in relationships.

Our most helpful tool is information from the public. The more information we receive, the more likely we are able to solve these fires. Many criminal cases are solved solely on information received from tips. Vehicle descriptions are very valuable and should, if possible, include license numbers, vehicle color, make and model. An odd individual or someone you know behaving strangely might provide a clue, as well as a sound heard at an unusual hour. Also, listen for people who have seen something suspicious talking amongst themselves, as there is a potential to discount the value of something they may know. If you think you should call the Task Force, then do just that. We operate a 24 hour tip line at (301) 77ARSON.

We remind the public that a reward in the amount of \$35,000 has been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) responsible for these fires.

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